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# JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, November 16, 2016

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

NHK and NTV led with reports that the body of a child was found in the mountains in Osaka, saying that it is believed to be a 4-year-old boy who went missing. TBS and Fuji TV gave top play to reports on mounting pressure on South Korean President Park to step down. TV Asahi led with a report on a fire that broke out in Itabashi, Tokyo, this morning, injuring one person.



## SECURITY

### PACOM commander says U.S.-Japan alliance remains same

NHK reported this morning that PACOM Commander Harris delivered a speech in Washington on Tuesday, during which he stressed the importance of U.S. relationships with its allies. He was quoted as saying: "The Indo-Asia Pacific is as important to America as it has ever been. I believe that our nation remains the security partner of choice in the region now and will remain so well into the future."

Noting that Trump has been claiming that U.S. alliance relations with other nations, including Japan, are "unfair," the network said President Obama, who exchanged views with Trump, said on Monday that he expects that important alliances will be maintained under Trump. The network noted, however, that while Trump appears to have "shifted course" on certain issues after the election, it remains unclear what kind of security policy he will adopt.

### **U.S. to notify GOJ today of consent for returning NTA**

Okinawa Times wrote that the USFJ plans to send the GOJ a notice on Wednesday of its consent for returning some 4,000 hectares of the Northern Training Area. U.S. military officials conducted an onsite inspection yesterday and concluded that the ongoing construction of the four helipads will be completed this year. According to a GOJ source, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga and Ambassador Kennedy are likely to take part in a reversion ceremony to be held in Naha following an official decision by the two governments on the return currently scheduled for Dec. 20. Although Governor Onaga will be invited to the event, he may not be able to attend on account of a scheduling conflict. The source added that the Okinawa event may be the Ambassador's last official duty since she will leave for the U.S. for Christmas vacation after that. The ceremony will probably be held at a hotel in Naha for security reasons.

In a related piece, the same daily said the GOJ plans to conduct decontamination work prior to the reversion in limited areas of the NTA, such as helicopter crash sites and existing helipads. The paper criticized this plan because concern remains about environmental pollution in much wider areas of the gigantic training field owing to the U.S. military's alleged use of a defoliant containing dioxin there in the past. According to the article, the U.S. military has failed to respond fully to inquiries submitted by the Okinawa defense bureau regarding the past use of the portions of the NTA to be returned.

- [Commentary: PKO and rush-to-rescue mission](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Flimsy argument to approve SDF's rescue missions in South Sudan](#) (Asahi)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Suga comments on upcoming Abe-Trump meeting**

Nikkei's website took up press remarks this morning by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, who commented on the planned meeting in New York on Thursday between PM Abe and President-elect Trump by saying they are likely to focus on building personal bonds because it will be their first meeting. "Since Mr. Trump will be the next U.S. leader, they will probably exchange views on world affairs," he added. With regard to media speculation that there will be no Asian experts in the incoming Republican administration, the top government spokesman said: "No decisions have been

made [by the President-elect] on his cabinet lineup. The Japanese government is aware that American experts on Asia have been offering advice to Mr. Trump. We are reaching out to them through MOFA.”

### **Abe’s advisor Kawai explains Japan’s position to U.S. senator**

NHK reported at noon that Prime Minister Abe's advisor Kawai, who is visiting the U.S., met with Republican Senator Gardner, who chairs *the Senate* Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia. The network said Kawai explained the importance of the TPP and the U.S.-Japan alliance, and Gardner pointed out that Japan does not need to react nervously to everything Trump said during the campaign. Kawai told reporters after the meeting: "I think Prime Minister Abe and President-elect Trump will put their heads together on various issues on the alliance and the region as they deepen their relationship of trust."

### **New York businessman familiar with Japan may be tapped as commerce chief?**

Nikkei reported online that President-elect Trump may nominate American investor Wilbur Ross as secretary of commerce, noting that the leading Wall Street businessman is very knowledgeable about Japan, as his equity fund purchased a Japanese bank in 2000 and he has served as the chairman of the Board of New York’s Japan Society. Pointing out that Ross is a proponent of free trade and called for Japan’s participation in the TPP, the daily said if he is tapped as a cabinet member, the incoming U.S. leader may take a more realistic line on the trade front.

- **Japan pays more for hosting U.S. forces than any other country** (Yomiuri)
- **Editorial: Reaffirm the value of the Japan-U.S. alliance** (Sankei)
- **“The U.S. is sure to recognize afresh the importance of free trade,” PM Abe** (Mainichi)
- **Editorial: Trump needs to talk with China to avoid unstable ties** (The Mainichi)
- **Cartoon: Abe and Trump** (Sankei)
- **Cartoon: Donald Trump** (Asahi)

## **ECONOMY**

- **Gist of interpellations at Upper House special committee on TPP, Nov. 15** (Tokyo Shimbun)
- **Nations consider moving forward with TPP without U.S.** (Sankei)
- **Japan to add ministerial heft in push for EU trade pact** (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Japan to launch initiative for AI-based drug discovery](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [TEPCO mulls cooperation with Russian company for Fukushima decommissioning](#) (Sankei)
- [A plan surfaces to turn Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant into a special purpose company](#) (Sankei)
- [No Diet deliberation of casino bill due to DP, JCP opposition](#) (Yomiuri)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on November 15](#) (Nikkei)
- [Snapshot of "Japan Conference"](#) (Asahi)
- [JCP stresses pressing need for a coalition government plan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Disarray emerges among opposition parties in Diet](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Wary views shouldn't be neglected in discussions on abdication issue](#) (The Japan News)
- [LDP Diet Affairs chief explains remark on "steamrolling" of TPP bills](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## SCIENCE

- [Patent Office launches new patent classification for IoT technology](#) (Sankei)

## EDUCATION

### [Record number of foreign students find employment in Japan](#)

Nikkei reported online on Justice Ministry data that showed a record number of 15,657 foreign students landed jobs in Japan in 2015 after graduating from college and vocational schools, noting that the corresponding number in 2005 was 5,878. The sharp increase appeared to be a result of accelerated efforts by the GOJ and local commercial enterprises to hire more foreigners in the IT and other pro-growth sectors with the goal of increasing the nation's competitiveness. According to the ministry, some 246,000 foreigners were studying in Japan as of the end of last year.

- [How will the Trump administration's policies affect international students?](#) (Yahoo!News Japan Online)

- [Japan sees record foreign students working after graduation in 2015](#) (Kyodo News)

## OPINION POLLS

### [Young Japanese relatively positive about Trump as president](#)

An opinion [poll](#) conducted by Sankei and Fuji News Network on Nov. 12-13 showed that only 19.3% of the respondents welcomed Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election. However, 38.9% of male respondents in their teens and 20s and 29.3% of men in their 30s welcomed his victory. With regard to female respondents, Trump's victory was welcomed by 23.5% of women in their teens and 20s, but received only single-digit support from women in their 40s and 50s. Based on a breakdown by party support, 21.4% of LDP supporters, 10.5% of Democratic Party supporters, and 9.3% of Komeito supporters welcomed the election of Trump as U.S. president. However, support was strong among Nippon Ishin supporters at 37.5%. Sankei speculated that Nippon Ishin supporters probably sympathize with President-elect Trump's "anti-establishment" position. Noting that the respondents' support for the TPP has dropped from a month ago, the paper conjectured that Trump's call for the withdrawal from the TPP may have affected the Japanese public's response to the trade pact.

## AMBASSADOR

### [Ambassador Kennedy, Education Minister confirm continued U.S.-Japan cooperation](#)

The Education Newspaper (Kyoiku Shimbun) reported that Ambassador Kennedy and Education Minister Matsuno confirmed continued cooperation between the U.S. and Japan in education and other sectors during their talks on Tuesday. The paper wrote that the Ambassador talked about the G7 Education Ministers' meeting in Kurashiki in May and American and Japanese students studying abroad, stressing that exchanges between American and Japanese students are important for maintaining the U.S.-Japan alliance.

## TV PROGRAMS

### [Animal hoarding](#)

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on the problem of animal hoarders, people who keep large numbers of animals as domestic pets without the ability to properly house or care for them. The program showed the home of a family in Tokyo that has 80 cats, saying the house has been overrun by the felines, and neighbors are complaining about the noise and smell. The program said although the family started out with only two cats, the number grew to 80 in just a few years because they refused to have them neutered and didn't want to give them away. The program reported on the

importance of neutering services and how local volunteer groups are working to prevent animal hoarding by visiting elderly people who tend to have many pets.

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